

working with local chronic disease patient advocates on July 10 to highlight contemporary challenges and opportunities, and I encourage my colleagues to join in this effort.

Chronic illness includes cancers, cardiovascular disease, and many other conditions, some very rare. Some chronic illnesses can be preventable, and Chronic Disease Day is an opportunity to feature healthy lifestyles, the importance of regular health screenings, and proper self-care. In this regard, awareness and education can go a long way towards improving patient outcomes, preventing the progression of disease, and lowering healthcare costs.

Many chronic illnesses are unavoidable though and have genetic components or are simply idiopathic with an unknown origin. These include rare and life-threatening conditions that require near constant access to life-sustaining care or therapies. These patients occasionally rely on voluntary charitable assistance programs to maintain this access when they have no other options.

July 10 is a time to promote the importance of preventing chronic disease while reflecting on opportunities to better serve individuals and families facing serious chronic illness. I call on my colleagues to please join me in recognizing Chronic Disease Day.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THE OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Outdoor Industry Association, OIA. Based in Boulder, CO, OIA is the leading trade organization of the outdoor recreation gear and apparel industry.

Founded by a group of 14 brands and specialty retailers, OIA has grown to include 1,300 companies that are the backbone of an \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy supporting 7.6 million jobs across the United States. For the past three decades, OIA has represented American businesses and individuals whose vocations and avocations are connected to this Nation's best idea: our public lands and waters. OIA is motivated by a shared commitment to protecting, maintaining, and expanding outdoor recreation infrastructure and ensuring every person in the United States has equitable access to nature.

From its earliest days, OIA has partnered with conservation organizations to advocate for our public land and water. OIA helped to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and they continue to press for full funding. They have also supported wildfire funding legislation, rails-to-trails, and similar transportation infrastructure programs and continue to work toward responsible climate and energy policy. The organi-

zation also produces outdoor recreation economy report that highlights the influence of the outdoor recreation sector on the national economy, including statistics on consumer spending, tax revenue, and job creation. This report is an incredible resource for lawmakers, land managers, and local planners. As a result, over the past half decade and following Colorado's leadership, States have created State offices of outdoor recreation to ensure that government leaders and business leaders are working together to grow their recreation economies.

I am honored to continue to work with OIA to protect our public land and water. Earlier this year, OIA announced their support for the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act, S. 241/H.R. 823, our bill to protect 400,000 acres of public land in Colorado while safeguarding existing outdoor recreation opportunities. OIA stated that they are "one hundred percent in support of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act because it would protect nearly half a million acres of public lands across Colorado and support the state's \$28 billion outdoor recreation economy while honoring its history in protecting Camp Hale, the origin of the 10th mountain division during WWII." I appreciate OIA's support for conserving public land in Colorado.

OIA members exemplify the collaborative and altruistic stewardship at the heart of the outdoor recreation industry. For that, I congratulate OIA on this 30-year anniversary and thank them for their contributions to our American outdoor heritage.●

##### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WILLIAMS

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today, I am honored to recognize in the RECORD Mr. Robert M. Williams, Jr., who recently retired after almost half a century as editor and publisher of the *Blackshear Times* in Blackshear, GA.

While he may be a small-town newspaperman, Robert Williams is known throughout south Georgia and across much of our State because of his work ethic, his devotion to the printed word, and his dedication to the newspaper business and what it means to a community. For more than 48 years, Robert has worked to be accurate, fair, and to provide his readers with the news that affects them and the community they all cherish. He has personally written more than 2,000 columns during his career.

It is worth mentioning that the newspaper's motto, printed at the top of the front page of the printed publication and online, is one Robert has also claimed as his own: "Liked by Many, Cussed by Some, Read by Them All." With the weekly newspaper also turning 150 years this year under Robert's leadership, both have long been widely read.

At Just 20 years old, Robert began his career at the *Blackshear Times*

after coming down to the community from the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. He was brought in by two legendary Georgians themselves, Roy Chalker, Sr., and Wilkes Williams of Waynesboro, to turn their investment around. Turn it around he did, settling well into the community at the same time. A short 5 years later, Robert purchased the *Blackshear Times*. Under Robert's leadership during the last 48 years, the newspaper has won hundreds of awards in a variety of categories.

Robert and his wife Cheryl have both loyally and successfully served not only this publication, but the newspaper industry as a whole. The *Blackshear Times* is one of five newspapers that Robert and Cheryl have owned as part of their SouthFire Newspapers organization, which also includes the *Alma Times*, the *Charlton County Herald*, the *Telfair Enterprise*, and the *Monroe County Reporter* in Georgia. Robert and Cheryl have both served as president of the Georgia Press Association, our State's newspaper industry advocacy organization. Robert was also president of the 2,300-member National Newspaper Association in 2014, serving nationally as the voice of small-town newspapers.

Locally, Robert Williams served two terms on the *Blackshear City Council* and served as executive director of both the *Pierce County Industrial Development Authority* and the *Pierce County Chamber of Commerce*. Robert is also a graduate of the *Leadership Georgia* program, an organization we both hold dear and that has guided our service to the State. Robert has found countless ways to give back. Whether it was as a member of the *Georgia Agriculture Exposition Authority* that governs the *Georgia National Fairgrounds* in Perry or the local college foundation board, Robert and Cheryl have made an impact well beyond *Blackshear* both professionally and personally.

Last week, Robert announced the sale of the *Blackshear Times*, bidding farewell after one of the longest editorial tenures in Georgia. With his final column as editor and publisher, Robert was incredibly gracious, thanking his colleagues, employees, mentors, and the fine bankers who gave him those first loans.

I speak for all Georgians when I say thank you to Robert and Cheryl for the difference you have made in our State. I count myself lucky to call you a friend, and Dianne and I wish you both the very best as you plan your future.●

##### REMEMBERING CHRIS CLINE

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I can't express enough what Chris Cline meant to our home State of West Virginia. He represented the very best of the Mountain State, which is saying a lot. Born in McDowell County and raised a stone's throw from the train tracks in the coalfields of Beckley, Chris's family was wealthy beyond measure in the